

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY MAY 5 1895.

VOL 9-NEW SERIES NO 73.

THE MINERS TO MEET TO-DAY.

About Ten Thousand of them Expected to Assemble at Pocahontas.

ALL QUIET AT ONE THIS MORNING.

300 Virginia Troops Camped at Graham, Five Miles From the Place of Meeting.

BOYS QUIETLY ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

Not Much Fear of Trouble—Six Companies in Camp Under Command of Major W. E. Simons, of the First Artillery Battalion—The Fourth Regiment and Other Troops Arrived.

POCAHONTAS, VA., May 4.—Special—The indications now point to a large meeting of the striking miners here to-morrow. Leader Lawless has spent the day this side of the tunnel, doing all in his power to increase the organization, and arouse interest in to-morrow's demonstration. Meetings were also held today at several other places, the largest being at Keystone and Rosbottom. New men were enrolled, and the big demonstration tallied up.

About 300 men have come over from the Elkhorn during the day, to be on hand to-morrow. Lawless says he can have 8,000 if he wants them. This is denied by those who are looking after the situation for the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company here, and firmly assert that the meeting will be completely small.

Thousands of circulars have been distributed to-day, here and throughout the coal region, advertising the strike and naming the speakers. M. C. Welsh, J. W. Lawless, W. C. Warburton, and O. B. York. It is reported that Patrick McMurphy will be here, but this is not authorized. McMurphy is not yet in the field.

THE MEETING RECAP.

Upon the success of the meeting depends the result of the strike. It is believed by some that if the Pocahontas miners refuse to be pacified, the strike will be at an end within ten days. If they go out voluntarily, the situation will be greatly complicated. Lawless, in discussing the situation to-day, said that he was confident they would do this. His agents have been active at work to-day among the miners here, but if the miners here are impressionable, it is still under the surface. There are apparently no good reason to fear that the two miles west will go out, and since a force of soldiers is near by, it is not thought probable that the miners will use force. The calling out of troops has relieved the tension here, and induced a feeling of greater security.

The miners and their sympathizers say that troops are unnecessary, but there is a strong opinion in other quarters that it was a wise precaution. It was believed that the troops would come here, and a big crowd at the depot was disappointed when the east-bound train came in.

WHAT LEADER LAWLESS SAYS.

Leader Lawless said that soldiers were not needed. He declared himself satisfied with the progress of the strike, and said that the miners were determined to resist violence. He urged the operators to violate the laws of West Virginia by their own weighty acts, and it is evident that the agitation is developing more than a fight of the operators against the Norfolk and Western, as at the beginning. Some of the strikers favor standing out for the weighting system, but they are divided.

One prominent Elkhorn operator told me to-day that he had made over \$100 last month, sending out \$20 to support his family, and receiving the balance in cash. Many of the men, at the old prices, he said, made \$10 per day.

The Norfolk and Western received a post on the southbound Elkorn this morning, warning the strikers not to interfere with the property in the hands of the United States Court, in accordance with the injunction granted by Judge Jackson. Deputy marshals were on some of the freight trains, and if they are not able to enforce the order of the court Federal regulars will be asked to do so.

THE SOUTHERN CREEK MEETING.

The meeting of the miners at Simmons' crossroads this afternoon was the largest yet held on this side of the tunnel. There were 500 men present, while there are only 500 men out this side of Elkhorn.

Resolutions were adopted to attend the demonstration here to-morrow. Then all outsiders were put out, and pickets were put out. The remainder of the proceedings were secret.

ALL QUIET AT 1 O'CLOCK.

At this writing 12 o'clock, all is perfectly quiet here, and there are no developments calculated to change early estimates of the situation.

It continues to become more apparent that there will be a big meeting to-morrow, but there seems to be no reason to expect trouble, as an immediate result. If there is violence it will be an effort to prevent the men going to work Monday morning.

While the calling of troops is evidently a wise precaution, and there is good reason to believe that there will be no occasion for a clash, the presence of soldiers will doubtless suppress whatever disposition towards violence that may have existed.

IN THE CANON OF VIRGINIA TROOPS.

They are at Graham. The Richmond Boys in Fine Spirits.

POCAHONTAS, VA., May 4.—Special—Many were the expressions of surprise over every hand here this morning when information was received that the Virginia militia were en route to this section. While the community at large were aware of the fact that the great rally of the strikers here to-morrow might result in almost anything, still few were prepared for the act of our vigilant Governor in sending troops into the field at this time, and many refused to believe that such was the case until the soldier boys arrived from Graham.

Your correspondent went to Graham, a beautiful little town among the Virginia hills, about ten miles from Pocahontas, and found the soldiers about three hundred strong whiling away the time, some in pleasant conversation, while others were playing base-ball in adjacent fields and conducting themselves generally in such a way as to fully sustain the report of the defense of the fair representation of Virginia law and order, such as to deter the young Virginians from the enjoyment of every possible pleasure.

WHAT LIEUT. BARRETT SAID.

In an interview with Lieutenant Barret, of the Royal Howitzers, the famous artillery company which furnished more officers to the Southern Confederacy than any other volunteer company that entered into the grand struggle for State rights under the Stars and Bars, a pleasant half hour was spent. He had many good stories, either real or imaginary, to tell of the demeanor of the boys en route to the place where it seems to be the prevailing opinion, like some land where the cannibals dwell, we rejoice in seeing the fresh blood of a fellow to the morning before breakfast. He told of the gallantry of the young gentlemen in cheering a lady passenger who preferred to ride in the coach with the gallant Richmond boys, where the command here was wont to dwell, and reported that Captain Cornell furnished a great amount of fun for the boys, as well as other things, and that Dr. Henson, surgeon of the battalion, was having attention to the wants of the command in his line, while the Howitzer's Quartette, composed of Messrs. Pundexter, Taylor, Thiermann, and Brannan, enlivened the day by splendid selections.

There were six companies in camp, as follows: The Richmond Howitzers, with thirty men, with Captain Hutchinson in command; the Monteagle Guards, of Charlottesville, forty-four strong, captain Keller in command; the Jeff Davis Guards, with twenty-three men and officers, Captain W. Griffin in command; Lieutenant Johnson, the Roanoke Light Infantry, Captain Hatchett, in command; Lieutenants Cook and Beatty, with forty guns, the Roanoke Machine Works Guards, thirty-two men, Captain Perkins in command; Lieutenants Howell and Taylor, the Lynchburg Home Guards, thirty-five strong, with Captain Sermons in command; Lieutenants Faulkner and Campbell.

Major Wm. E. Simons, First Battalion Virginia Artillery, chief in command; Staff Major James C. Watts, of the Second Regiment of Abingdon; Captain Rufus, of Charlottesville, First Virginia Cavalry; Lieutenant Wortham, First Battalion, chief of ordnance; Captain Hutchesson, and Adjutant-General Anderson are in Pocahontas to-night reconnoitering, carrying with them the outfit and provisions for the party.

WILL REMAIN TWO MONTHS.

It is expected that the Montgomery will lead the commission at its destination May 12th, and that at least two months will be consumed in examining the 170 mile route of the projected waterway. The commission, however, goes prepared for a three-months' stay, and is in little hope of returning to the United States before the middle of August.

Although the report of the commission is not yet ready, the President for presentation to Congress before November 1st, Chairman Ladlow had arranged to maintain communication by telegraphic code with the State Department during his absence, and the two ships stationed at each terminus of the canal will be informed as to the party's progress frequently.

NO DISORDERS EXPECTED.

The result of the troops being brought into the field is a hard matter to place an estimate upon. The big meeting to be held here to-morrow will probably be from eight to ten thousand miners, and will not doubt be attended by more or less disreputable and conservative men, states that there will be no riotous disposition on the part of the miners.

POCAHONTAS POLICE FORCE.

The striking miners are bitter against the authorities for calling the military. They assert that they have the constitutional right to meet and discuss issues, and that they have no inclination to use other force than reason.

The authorities of Pocahontas enrolled forty special police to prevent disorder during the meeting to be held here.

All the miners of the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company are here, with the exception of the operators.

There is a new rarer current to-night that the miners employed by the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company and the Browning mines have demanded that the company pay 37.5 cents per ton for mining coal, which would amount to an advance of 20 per cent.

ALL QUIET ALONG NORTH AND WESTERN.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., May 4.—All is quiet here. The Norfolk and Western raised among the miners of this State, and many of them gathered together to-day and discussed the situation. They may some of the operators, but no agreement was reached. There are many miners leaving the region, and over one hundred of them passed through this city eastbound to-night, to secure work elsewhere.

Governor McCorkle and Colonel Hodges, a commander of the Second Cavalry Regiment, held a consultation to-day and agreed to have the militia ready to proceed to the scene of trouble should any arise.

ROANOKE'S MILITARY.

The Two Local Companies Joined by Others.

THE HOWIZZERS.

ROANOKE, VA., May 4.—Special—The city presented an animated air early this morning, and a martial air pervaded the town. After an arduous night's work, Captain Hatcher mustered out 38 members of the United States Cavalry, in accordance with the injunction granted by Judge Jackson. Deputy marshals were on some of the freight trains, and if they are not able to enforce the order of the court Federal regulars will be asked to do so.

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Captain T. F. Heath, of the Petersburg Grays, Third Virginia Regiment, received this morning the following telegram from Colonel Nalle, of Culpeper county:

"Hold your company in readiness to meet at a moment's notice."

It is presumed that the Grays, if necessary, are to be sent to Pocahontas, to assist in quelling any disturbance that may arise there among the coal-miners.

There are fifty-three members of the Grays, and within half an hour after the foregoing telegram had been received, each member of the company had been notified of the order which had come from Colonel Nalle.

THE FARMVILLE GUARDS.

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